H.A.A.U.G.

HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP

THE APPLE BARREL

*** SINGLE COPY PRICE $1.50 ***

VOLUME 4 NO. 3 MAY 1981

President, Bruce Barber Vice President, Mike Kramer

Editor Emeritus, Ed Seeger Editor pro tem, Ray Essig

*** CONTENTS ***

Page 1 Club notes

Page 3 File Cabinet File Initializer Mike Kramer

Page 5 Modification Of File Cabinet V G H Pardue

Page 7 Epson MX-80 Horizontal Tab Problem Mike Kramer

Page 7 April Report On Business Meeting Rudge Allen

Page 10 Shopping For A Home Computer Houston Post

Houston Area Apple Users Group
APPLE BARREL
Box 42888 #293
Houston, Texas 77042

<<< CLUB NOTES >>>

The HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP is an Apple II user club, not affiliated with Apple, Inc., or with any retail computer store. HAAUG is a member of the International Apple Core and supports its purposes and publications. General membership meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in the rear chapel of Memorial Lutheran Church, 5600 Westheimer, right by the Jungman Branch Library and west of Chimney Rock. They start at 6:30 p.m. An additional meeting for access to the club software library, problem-solving, and various lectures is held the last Saturday of each month at the University of Texas School of Public Health (in the Medical Center), 6905 Bertner off Holcomb, across from Medical Center entrance #5. We meet on the main floor, first room on the left. Parking is adjacent to the building. These Saturday meetings begin at 2:00 p.m. Bring your Apple if you like!

---==*==---

OFFICERS / EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Bruce Barber	469-5805
Vice Pres	Mike Kramer	358-6687
Treasurer	Ray Essig	497-7165
Secretary	Mike Maddock	783-1521
Software	D. Cornwell	774-0671
Hardcopy	Larry Baumann	498-3433
Business	Rudge Allen	622-3979
Membership	LEE Gilbreth	342-2685
Newsletter	Ray Essig	497-7165

FORTH CLASS
BEGINS @12:00
BRING A 3.2
INITIALIZED
DISKETTE

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Dues are $18.00 per 12-month period for regular memberships, $6.00 for students through high school and where no adult member of the family is an Apple user. Please make checks payable to "Houston Area Apple Users Group," and mail to Lee E. Gilbreth, Membership Chair, 3609 Glenmeadow, Rosenberg, TX 77471. This includes a subscription to APPLE BARREL, which is published nine times a year. Newsletter exchanges with similar clubs are invited.

---==*==---

APPLE BARREL REPRINT POLICY

Unless otherwise indicated within the program or article, any ORIGINAL material published herein may be reprinted without permission by any non-profit Apple club, group or newsletter, PROVIDED proper credit is given to the APPLE BARREL and the article or program author.

---==*==---

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Members who share a common interest are encouraged to form Special Interest Groups to more fully explore their fields. Meetings may be arranged by common consent of the group and will ordinarily have one member who serves to coordinate or convene the meetings. If you would like to start a group around any given interest, please contact one of the club officers. If you would like to be in touch with others who share one of the following interests with you, please phone the coordinator.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Current Groups Are:

1) BUSINESS APPLICATIONS
Coordinated by Rudge Allen, 622-3979
Meets at Ebasco Services 3731 Briar Park - 6:30pm
3rd Thursday most months

2) PASCAL USERS
Pat McGee coordinating, 663-6806
This Special Interest Group is to meet and discuss aspects of Apple's Pascal language and to exchange programs.

3) MODEM USERS
Herb Crosby coordinating, 497-1061

4) HAM RADIO OPERATORS
Coordinated by Ed Seeger, WB5PTW 723-6919
Apple Net, 14.330 MHz, Sundays at 7:00 p.m. C.S.T. Worth monitoring! WB7TRQ, Jim, net control

5) NEW MEMBERS
Coordinated by Lee Gilbreth, 342-2685

6) EDUCATIONAL APPLICATIONS
Coordinated by Darrell Kachilla, 498-0186

7) BEGINNERS' PROGRAMMING
Coordinated by John C. Whiteman, 974-7287 (home)
This Special Interest Group is to meet and discuss Integer Basic and Applesoft.

8) FILE CABINET
Coordinated by Lee Gilbreth, 342-2685
Purpose is to understand, expand and enhance the File Cabinet program.

9) SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMING
Coordinated by Martin Edelstein 729-4199
Includes Forth language group. Meets at 12:00 noon last Sat. of month, same location as Sat. meeting.

APPLE BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM

The Houston Area Apple Users Group supports an ABBS evenings and weekends, 6:00 pm through 8:30 am, and all weekend long. Feel free to sign-on and place your want-ad, meeting notice, request for help, Aggie joke, etc. Any ASCII terminal, Apple computer or not, with suitable modem or coupler, will give you ABBS capability. Note that our ABBS now has download capability! Please sign off properly with 'G' command. Call

713/654-0759

SYSOP is Rudge Allen, 622-3979.

INTERNATIONAL APPLE CORE

Jerry Vitt of Dallas has been appointed as our Regional Director.

LeRay Geist has been appointed

HAAUG Coordinator to IAC

APRIL FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE FROM MARCH 1981		3888.77
INCOME:	Dues, Mags, etc	982.00
	Diskette Sales	728.00
EXPENSES:	Newsletter	347.12
	Misc Supplies	19.92
	Mags For Resale	96.00
	Postage & Misc	40.46
BALANCE APRIL 30,1981		5095.27

FILE CABINET FILE INITIALIZER

By Mike Kramer

Those of you who use FILE CABINET have probably set up data bases for which some of the data was to be entered at a later time. Unfortunately, FILE CABINET requires that you enter something in every item in every record. This can be simply a <RETURN>, but it can be inconvenient if there are many records and/or many items per record. FILE CABINET INITIALIZER was written to permit creation of a new FILE CABINET data base, with the desired number of records preinitialized.

FILE CABINET INITIALIZER can be used to add a data base if FILE CABINET files already exist on the disk or to create them if they do not. The user is asked to name the new data base. If this data base already exists, he is given the option to enter a new name or to replace the old version. The number of records is specified, the "headers" are entered, and the new data base is initialized. Data input can then be done using FILE CABINET or FILE CABINET STUFFER, both of which are available from the HAAUG library. Those who have FILE CABINET STUFFER might be interested to know that an enhanced version is available which is easier to use, has a dimension problem corrected, and has better error handling.

Two handy techniques adapted from recent issues of CALL A.P.P.L.E. have been used in FILE CABINET INITIALIZER. The first was defining D$ as CHR$(13) + CHR$(4). Preceeding the control D with a RETURN permits issuing multiple DOS commands in a PRINT statement, as done in Lines 140 and 280. Although not used in this program, this D$ also eliminates the need to follow a GET command with a PRINT. The second technique is the error handling in Lines 630 through 760. My previous attempts at handling errors proved cumbersome, with a lot of IF's and strings defining error statements. With this technique, the message is retrieved from the system along with the offending line number. You should be able to easily adapt the error-handling routines here to your own programs.

As a final note, FILE CABINET INITIALIZER has been tested and is considered bug-free. You should, however, try it with a duplicate disk to assure yourself that it operates properly. The program runs with the monitor turned on so you can watch what is going on as your new data base is initialized.

See Program Listing Next Page

APPLE ENTHUSIST WANTED!

HELICOPTER COMPANY SEEKING APPLE PROGRAMER TO ASSIST IN USE OF APPLE COMPUTORS IN C.A.I. ROLE. (NO AVIATION BACKGROUND NECESSARY.) COMPANY BENIFITS INCLUDE; INSURANCE, SICK PAY, VACATION ETC. FOR THIS FULL TIME POSITION. IF YOU ARE SKILLED IN BASIC PROGRAMING AND WOULD ENJOY WORKING WITH THE LATEST "STATE OF THE ART" PERIPHIALS CALL ME:

JOEL HARRIS - 353-6540 ext.294

```
5  REM  FC FILE INITIALIZER
10  REM       WRITTEN BY
15  REM      MIKE KRAMER
20  REM        1/7/81
25  REM
30  HOME : VTAB 10: FOR N = 1 TO
    39: PRINT "*";: NEXT N: VTAB
    12: HTAB 5: PRINT "FILE CABI
    NET FILE INITIALIZER": PRINT
    : HTAB 15: PRINT "WRITTEN BY
    ": PRINT : HTAB 14: PRINT "M
    IKE KRAMER": VTAB 18: FOR N =
    1 TO 39: PRINT "*";: NEXT N
40  VTAB 20: HTAB 13: INPUT "INST
    RUCTIONS? ";YN$:YN$ =  LEFT$
    (YN$,1): IF YN$ <  > "Y" AND
    YN$ <  > "N" THEN  GOTO 40
50  IF YN$ = "Y" GOTO 770
60  GOSUB 680: REM  POKE IN ONERR
     ROUTINE
70  HOME : CLEAR
80  VTAB 12: PRINT "INSERT FILE C
    ABINET DISK - PRESS A KEY";:
     GET A$: PRINT
90 D$ =  CHR$ (13) +  CHR$ (4):OP
    $ = D$ + "OPEN":WR$ = D$ + "
    WRITE":RD$ = D$ + "READ":CL$
     = D$ + "CLOSE":DL$ = D$ + "
    DELETE": REM  CHR$(13) IN D$
     PERMITS MULTIPLE DISK COMMA
    NDS IN A PRINT STATEMENT
100 BN$ = "BASENAMEFILE":HD$ = "
    HEADERFILE":IX$ = " INDEXFIL
    E"
110  PRINT D$"NONCIO"
120  DIM HD$(20),BN$(40)
130  ONERR  GOTO 630
140  PRINT OP$BN$RD$BN$
150  INPUT NB$:NB =  VAL (NB$)
160  FOR N = 1 TO NB: INPUT BN$(N
    ): NEXT N
170  PRINT CL$BN$
180  ONERR  GOTO 650
190  PRINT : INPUT "NAME OF NEW D
    ATA BASE? ";DB$: IF  LEN (DB
    $) = 0 THEN  HOME : GOTO 600

200  IF  ASC ( LEFT$ (DB$,1)) < 6
    5 OR  ASC ( LEFT$ (DB$,1)) >
    91 THEN  PRINT : PRINT "NAME
     MUST START WITH A LETTER.":
     GOTO 190
210  IF  LEN (DB$) > 19 THEN  PRINT
    : PRINT "NAME MUST HAVE LESS
     THAN 20 CHARACTERS": GOTO 1
    90
220  FOR J = 1 TO NB
230  IF DB$ = BN$(J) GOTO 260
240  NEXT J
250 NB = NB + 1:NB$ =  STR$ (NB):
    BN$(NB) = DB$: GOTO 300
260  PRINT : PRINT DB$;" ALREADY
    EXISTS.": PRINT : INPUT "REP
    LACE EXISTING FILE? ";YN$:YN
    $ =  LEFT$ (YN$,1): IF YN$ <
     > "Y" AND YN$ <  > "N" GOTO
    260
270  IF YN$ = "N" GOTO 190
280  PRINT OP$DB$HD$DL$DB$HD$
290  PRINT OP$DB$IX$DL$DB$FL$IX$
300  PRINT : INPUT "NUMBER OF REC
    ORDS? ";NR$:NR =  VAL (NR$):
     IF NR < 1 GOTO 300
310 NH = 0
320  PRINT : PRINT "ENTER HEADER
    $ ";NH + 1;": ";: INPUT "";H
    $: IF  LEN (H$) <  > 0 THEN
    NH = NH + 1:HD$(NH) = H$: GOTO
    320
330  IF NH = 0 GOTO 320
340 FL$ = DB$ + " HEADERFILE"
350  PRINT OP$FL$DL$FL$
360  PRINT OP$FL$WR$FL$
370  PRINT NH
380  FOR N = 1 TO NH
390  PRINT HD$(N)
400  NEXT N
410  PRINT CL$FL$
420 FL$ = DB$ + " INDEXFILE"
430  PRINT OP$FL$DL$FL$
440  PRINT OP$FL$WR$FL$
450  PRINT NR
460  FOR N = 1 TO NR
470  FOR N = 1 TO NH
480  PRINT  CHR$ (32)
490  NEXT N: NEXT N
500  PRINT CL$FL$
510  PRINT OP$BN$WR$BN$
520  PRINT NB
530  FOR N = 1 TO NB
540  PRINT BN$(N)
550  NEXT N
560  PRINT CL$BN$
570  PRINT : INPUT "INITIALIZE MO
    RE FILES? ";YN$:YN$ =  LEFT$
    (YN$,1): IF YN$ <  > "Y" AND
    YN$ <  > "N" GOTO 570
580  IF YN$ = "N" THEN  HOME : GOTO
    600
590  GOTO 70
600  PRINT D$"NOMONCIO"
610  HOME : END
620  REM  ** APPLESOFT ONERR COR
    RECTION
630  CALL 1013:I =  PEEK (222): IF
    I = 5 OR I = 6 THEN  POKE 21
    6,0: HOME : GOTO 180 REM
    NO BASENAMEFILE .. LET ONE B
    E CREATED
640  GOTO 660
650  CALL 1013
660  HOME : VTAB 12: GOSUB 730: IF
    I > 3 AND I < 10 THEN  PRINT
    : PRINT "CORRECT ERROR, THEN
     PRESS A KEY:";: GET A$: PRINT
    : RESUME
670  PRINT "FATAL ERROR IN LINE "
    ; PEEK (218) + 256 *  PEEK (
    219): VTAB 23: END
680  FOR I = 1013 TO 1022: READ P
    P: POKE I,PP: NEXT I
690 I = 0
700  RETURN
710  DATA  104,168,104,166,223,1
    54,72,152,72,96
720  REM ERROR MESSAGE PRINTING A
    DAPTED FROM CALL APPLE 9/80

730 MSG$ =  CHR$ (0):I =  PEEK (2
    22): POKE 216,0: IF I = 0 OR
    I > 15 THEN J = 53856 + I +
    (I = 255) *  - 1: GOTO 750
740 J = 43377 +  PEEK (43583 + I)

750 K =  PEEK (J):MSG$ = MSG$ +  CHR$
    (K): IF K < 192 THEN J = J +
    1: GOTO 750
760  PRINT MSG$: PRINT : RETURN
770  HOME : PRINT
780  PRINT  TAB( 2)"** FILE CABIN
    ET FILE INITIALIZER **": PRINT

790  PRINT "THIS PROGRAM SETS UP
    FILE CABINET FILES WITH A SP
    ECIFIED NUMBER OF RECORDS."
800  PRINT "THE PROGRAM RUNS WITH
     THE DISK COMMAND  MONITOR O
    N TO PERMIT DISK ACTIVITY TO
     BEWATCHED.": PRINT
810  PRINT "YOU WILL BE ASKED FOR
     THE NEW DATA BASE NAME, THE
     NUMBER OF RECORDS, AND THE
       HEADERS TO  BE USED. IF T
    HE DATA BASE  NAMED IS IN T
    HE BASENAMEFILE, YOU WILL  B
    E GIVEN A CHANCE TO ENTER AN
    OTHER NAME IF DESIRED."
820  PRINT : PRINT "WHEN THE DESI
    RED HEADERS HAVE BEEN      E
    NTERED, PRESS <RETURN> TO IN
    DICATE     THERE ARE NO MORE
    ."
830  VTAB 22: PRINT "PRESS <RETUR
    N> TO CONTINUE,<ESC> TO EXIT
    ";: GET A$: PRINT ;
840  IF A$ =  CHR$ (13) GOTO 60
850  IF A$ =  CHR$ (27) THEN  HOME
    : END
860  GOTO 830
```

MODIFICATIONS OF FILE CABINET V
(To Operate With Epson MX-80)
(Changes Denoted By Asterick)

G. H. Pardue 4-18-81

```
* 1  HOME : PRINT : PRINT "   PROGRAM FILE CABINET V": PRINT "ADAPTED
     TO THE MX-80 PRINTER": PRINT "        BY GEO PARDUE": PRINT : PRINT
     : PRINT "< PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE >": GET A$: PRINT


]LIST4500-4700

 4500  REM  *** LIST ***
 4510 L = 0
 4520  HOME
 4521  INPUT "DO YOU WANT TO LIST ALL OR PART (A/P)?";S$
* 4522  IF S$ = "A" THEN SR = 1: GOTO 4529
 4523  IF S$ <  > "P" THEN 4521
 4524  INPUT "STARTING RECORD? ";SR
* 4525  IF SR < 1 THEN 4810
 4527  IF SR > NR THEN  PRINT "ONLY ";NR;" RECORDS AVAILABLE.": GOTO
     4524
* 4529 A1 = 0
 4530  FOR J = SR TO NR
 4540  ON PF GOSUB 5230,5250,5280
* 4541 A1 = A1 + 1
 4550  PRINT "  "H$(0)": ";J:L = L + 1
 4560  FOR I = 1 TO NH
 4570  PRINT I" "H$(I)": "N$(R(J),I)
 4580 L = L + 1
 4590  NEXT I
 4600  PRINT :L = L + 1
* 4605  IF PF <  > 0 THEN 4620
 4610  IF L + NH > 20 THEN 4660
 4620  NEXT J
 4630  PRINT "PR#0"
 4640  INPUT "HIT RETURN FOR MENU...";L$
 4650  GOTO 4810
 4660  PRINT "PR#0"
 4670  PRINT "PRESS RETURN TO CONTINUE, ESC FOR MENU";
 4672  GET L$: PRINT
 4674  IF  ASC (L$) = 27 THEN 4810
 4676  IF  ASC (L$) = 13 THEN 4680
 4678  GOTO 4672
 4680  HOME :L = 0
 4690  ON PF GOSUB 5230,5250,5280
 4700  GOTO 4620

 5000  PRINT "7  TURN ON PRINTER"
 5010  PRINT "8  TURN OFF PRINTER"
 5020  PRINT "9  LIST"
 5030  PRINT "10 QUIT"
 5040  PRINT "11 HEADER- ADD, CHANGE OR DELETE"
 5045  PRINT
 5050  INPUT "WHICH ";S$:S =  VAL (S$)
 5060  IF S < 1 OR S > 11 THEN 4810
 5070  ON S GOTO 1050,1780,1620,5920,2940,1440,5080,5160,4500,5170,53
     10
 5080  HOME
```

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

```
 5090  PRINT "PRINTER OPTIONS:"
*5091  PRINT "0 RETURN TO MENU"
 5100  PRINT "1 40 COLUMNS"
 5110  PRINT "2 80 COLUMNS"
 5120  PRINT "3 132 COLUMNS"
 5130  PRINT : INPUT "WHICH ";PF$:PF =  VAL (PF$)
 5140  IF PF < 0 OR PF > 3 THEN 5130
 5150  GOTO 4810
*5160 PF = 0: PRINT "PR#0": GOTO 4810
 5170  END
 5180  REM *** APPLESOFT ONERR CORRECTION
 5190  FOR I = 1013 TO 1022: READ PP: POKE I,PP: NEXT I
 5200 I = 0
 5210  RETURN
 5220  DATA 104,168,104,166,223,154,72,152,72,96
 5230  GOSUB 5302
 5232  PRINT  CHR$ (137)"I"
 5233  IF A1 > 1 THEN  GOTO 5300
 5234  GOTO 5290
 5250  GOSUB 5302
 5252  PRINT  CHR$ (137)"80N"
 5253  IF A1 > 1 THEN  GOTO 5300
 5254  GOTO 5290
 5280  GOSUB 5302
 5282  PRINT  CHR$ (137)"132N"
 5283  IF A1 > 1 THEN  GOTO 5300
 5284  GOTO 5290
 5290  IF A1$ = "R" THEN  PRINT  CHR$ (18); CHR$ (27);"F"; CHR$ (27);
      "H"
 5292  IF A1$ = "E" THEN  PRINT  CHR$ (18); CHR$ (27);"H"; CHR$ (27);
      "E"
 5294  IF A1$ = "D" THEN  PRINT  CHR$ (18); CHR$ (27);"F"; CHR$ (27);
      "G"
 5296  IF A1$ = "C" THEN  PRINT  CHR$ (27);"F"; CHR$ (27);"H"; CHR$ (
      15)
 5300  RETURN
 5302  IF A1 > 0 THEN  PRINT  CHR$ (4);"PR#1": RETURN
 5303  PRINT CHR(4);"PR#0": HOME
 5304  PRINT "TYPE  R  FOR REGULAR PRINTING": PRINT "TYPE  E  FOR EMP
      HASIZED PRINTING": PRINT "TYPE  D  FOR DOUBLE STRIKING": PRINT
      "TYPE  C  FOR CONDENSED PRINTING": GET A1$: PRINT
 5306  PRINT  CHR$ (4);"PR#1": RETURN
```

ALL NEW

WOOPS!

An error has been detected in one of the programs carried in the STARTER KIT. For those who can not get FILE CABINET to make a report, make this change;

```
3670 N = LEN (H$(K(3 * I - 2)))
     : GOSUB 90: POKE 36,N: PRINT
     H$(K(3 * I - 2));
```

It should clear up the problem.

EPSON MX-80 HORIZONTAL TAB PROBLEM

By Mike Kramer

Those of you who have one of the new Epson Mx-80 printers may have experienced some difficulty making it do horizontal tabs as described in the manual. The technique is similar to setting tabs on a typewriter. The following example illustrates how this is supposed to be done:

```
100 PRINT CHR$(27)"E"CHR$(10)CHR$(20)CHR$(0)

110 PRINT "ABC"CHR$(9)"DEF"CHR$(9)"GHI"
```

Line 100 specifies that columns 10 and 20 are supposed to be the tab positions. Line 110 should result in printing "ABC" in column 1, "DEF" in column 10, and "GHI" in column 20. Those who have tried this find that "ABCEF" is printed starting in column 1, and "GHI" is printed in column 10. Through experimentation, it was found that following the tab specification with printing of CHR$(9), the tab character, and a space the tabs would work properly. Subsequent tabbing, however, was unpredictable.

A better tabbing method giving absolutely predictable results is poking the tab position into memory location 36. The following line prints the same line as the lines above:

```
90 PRINT "ABC";:POKE 36,9:PRINT "DEF";:POKE 36,19:PRINT "GHI"
```

GENERAL BUSINESS APPLICATIONS MEETING

The Business Special Interest Group met last Thursday, April 23rd, for a demonstration of the new data base system, DB MASTER. The presentation by Ed White (Aurora Computer Enterprises) and AKa Demesa (Computer City) showed DB MASTER to be very versatile and professionally put together as advertized. While one can expect a direct trade-off between simplistic operation and sophisticated power, this new data base system proved surprizingly easy to manipulate, yet comprehensive in its capacity. Of all the data base systems written for Apple, DB MASTER appears to be the most advanced- even to the point of hierarchical or relational file handling.

During the session, VISIPRINT was shown. Written by Aurora Computer Enterprizes, this program is designed to selectively search and display data produced by the popular program, VISICALC.

To top off the meeting, Doug Bell brought in his new typewriter-printer to display its quality output. Made by Olivetti, the electronic typewriter, turned printer, produced the example page shown on the page opposite when driven under the word processer program, APPLE PIE. Doug uses his XYMEC to print out seemingly typed, customed letters, including the addressing of the envelopes.

Our next Business Applications Meeting will be held 7:00 PM, May 21st in the EBASCO Conference Room, 3731 Brairpark (corner of Westpark). The subject is open- we still need volunteers to make presentations. Call Rudge Allen: Home 622-3979 or Office 654-4484.

H.A.A.U.G. has an extensive library of software which is avail- to it's members. All software is of the public domain type which means we exclude those programs which are copyrighted or currently for sale. We obtain our software through member developed donations and exchanges with other APPLE groups which have similar libraries.

We currently have two versions of the library:

-the "old" version which has 100+ disk volumes of relatively unsorted, undocumented, untested programs (2500+ programs overall)

-the "new" version is sorted by program type and will contain tested, documented software. This version became available in January, 1981 and work is continuing on it. This version has 25+ volumes and 750+ programs. We also have six(6) disks from the International APPLE Corps.

Both versions are available to members.

How does a H.A.A.U.G. member get software from the library? The primary way is at our regular, last-Saturday-of-the-month meeting. The Software committee will have multiple APPLE systems set up which will make disk and cassette copies of library programs the member desires. Details of the distribution procedures are attached.

H.A.A.U.G.'s Software committee is divided into three group:

1) Distribution - this group handles the Saturday meeting copying functions. It involves getting equipment and people to handle the copying as well as having library catalogs produced and available.

2) Evaluation - this group reviews all software made available to the club and develops written evaluations and documentation on those appropriate for the library.

3) Maintenance - this group physically handles putting new software and documentation in the library, develops software "standards", does program "fixes" when required, etc.

The library is a big job and the efforts are done solely by volunteers. Please contact any of the follwing people to help with the any of the above functions:

Dennis Cornwell	-	Software Library Chairman
A. D. Smith	-	Distribution Co-chairman
Richard Carey	-	" "
Martin Edelstein	-	Evaluation Chairman
Steve Conner	-	Maintenance Chairman

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

To obtain software from H.A.A.U.G.'s library during one of our last-Saturday-of-the-month meetings, you will need to go to the distribution area and go through the follwing steps:

STEP # 1 - Verification of membership - you must be a paid-up member to receive library software.

STEP # 2 - Pay copying fee of $1.00 - this fee is used to partially offset the expense of the library (primarily for library diskettes and disk drives purchased by the club for maintenance/evaluation/distribution purposes.) This fee becomes effective on March 28, 1981.

STEP # 3 - Obtain a "copying sequence number" (CSN) slip - this determines the order in which you recieve your software copies. First come-First served basis (similar to Baskin-Robbins!).

STEP # 4 - Specify library software you want to receive - this is done on your CSN slip and should specify (along with your name) either

- entire H.A.A.U.G. disk volume(s)

or

- individual programs on a specific H.A.A.U.G. volume

Copies of the library catalog are available from the Software committe to assist you in specifying your desired volumes.

Each member will be limited (per CSN) to six (6) entire disk volumes or ten (10) individual programs to cassette or disk. You may obtain multiple (but non-consecutive) CSN's at any one meeting. The $1.00 fee applies to every CSN.

STEP # 5 - Your CSN will be called in order - go to the library area and you will be directed to the first available "copying station". Then present your filled-out CSN and media (diskettes or tapes) and you will recieve your copies.

The library is currently in 13 sector format (3.1/3.2/3.2.1 DOS versions) and will shortly be available in 16 sector (3.3) format. It is not necessary to have your diskettes initialized prior to copying if you are getting entire disks copied. It is required if you want individual programs.

WARNING: Entire disk copying destroys any previous information on an initialized disk. Do NOT give us a diskette to be copied which has items on it you want to keep.

Cassette users should bring their own recorders and connecting patch cords for best results.

Any comments/questions/volunteers on the above procedures (or the library in general) should be directed to Dennis Cornwell, Chairman-Software committee.

DAC-3/27/81

Computer shopping

Making smart purchase no small feat

By DAVID F. SALISBURY
Christian Science Monitor

Shopping for a personal computer is not like buying a refrigerator or a new car.

Small computers are a uniquely new product, creating an entirely new market. As a result, the buyer must either devote considerable time to learn the special jargon of this brave new technological world or else find salespeople he or she trusts.

When considering the purchase of a computer, the first step is to make a list of the things you think you need it for. A computer can speed such tasks as preparing manuscripts and reports, billing customers, setting up filing systems, aiding in the preparation of income tax forms, giving access to specialized information such as stock market quotes — and even typesetting this article.

If you are curious about this new technology and feel it worth your time to learn about it, the first step is to do some background reading. A number of introductory books on microcomputers are on the market, but they tend to be oversimplified and quickly go out of date. It would be better to sample some of the computer magazines.

By far the most comprehensive is Byte; it may, however, be a little overwhelming to the computer novice. Other magazines such as Creative Computing, Personal Computing, On Computing, and Interface Age are more accessible but less comprehensive.

ANOTHER SOURCE OF information is the local computer club. Here you will find people with experience on the various models available.

The much-vaunted home computer — an inexpensive machine that will control appliances, act as the nerve center for a security system, educate and entertain the children, give access to news and other useful information, or operate a household heating system for optimum comfort and efficiency — remains a novelty. Industry observers believe this market will not develop in a substantial way until the mid-1980s. As a result, those considering buying such a computer for home use should justify it on recreational or educational, rather than economic, grounds.

For the small-business person, the $2,000 to $18,000 price tag for these computers usually can be justified.

When buying a computer, you must be aware of the relationship between "hardware" and "software." Hardware means equipment. Software — the programs or instructions that turn the computer from useless machinery into a valuable tool — is the most important aspect of a purchase. To a large extent, software determines how well a computer will perform the tasks in which you are interested.

Because of considerable variation in ability and business acumen among software writers, purchasers cannot count on getting the performance they think they pay for. The problem is compounded by the fact that software vendors, concerned with unauthorized duplication, will not give dealers demonstration copies of their products. Thus it is difficult to be sure you are getting the best software available. Buying software can add up to more than a quarter of the total cost.

WHEN YOU WALK into a reputable computer store with your list of tasks, however, the salespeople will do their best to match these with the available software. Because the software, in general, is tailored to a specific brand of computer, it will determine which hardware you consider.

In shopping for personal computers, you should plan to visit several stores. No single shop carries all the brands you will want to consider. The TRS-80, the biggest-selling brand of personal computer, is sold only at Radio Shack stores. Other stores sell Apple, Hewlett-Packard, Vector Graphics, Cromemco, Commodore and other varieties.

It may take you a while to find a good salesman. They are in the minority.

Each computer system has its strengths and weaknesses. Apple has outstanding graphics. Radio Shack models tend to be a little bit cheaper per unit capacity. Hewlett-Packard is especially powerful for scientific and engineering computations. Vector Graphics is tailored to word processing. Cromemco is a "Cadillac" microcomputer system.

There are software distinctions as well. Apple has actively encouraged independent software writers, with the result that a great deal of high-quality software is available. Radio Shack has attempted to discourage the independents. As a result, it is particularly difficult to assess the quality of non-Radio Shack software written for TRS-80 machines.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS HAS been even more proprietary with its system, so very little software has become available. TI reversed its position recently and has begun soliciting outside software developers.

Another aspect that requires major consideration is servicing. It is generally possible to get computer equipment at a considerable discount through the mail or through outlets that will not service what they sell.

If the computer is to be a critical piece of equipment, the costs that can result when it fails — especially if the only way to service it is to mail it to a distant repair center — can outweigh the initial savings.

When returning to the store with a final set of tasks for the computer to do, you should insist on getting a statement of how completely a given system will meet your specific needs. It is seldom that the computer will be able to do everything the way you want in exactly the way you wish. It may prove necessary for you to change the way you do things to get the maximum benefit from a computer system.

The buyer still must be wary. Getting what one bargains for requires a major effort.

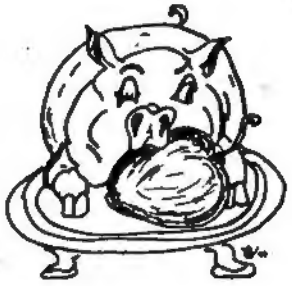
FORTH CLASS REMINDER

Martin Edelstein will conduct a FORTH language class on the last saturday of the month, for the next two or three months.

These meetings will be held on the same day and at the same location as our regular saturday meetings (see page 1). There will be a nominal charge for materials.

Houston Area Apple Users Group
APPLE BARREL
Ed Seeger, Editor
4331 Nenana Drive
Houston, Texas 77035

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON, TEXAS
PERMIT 3936



H.A.A.U.G

Postmasters:

Address Correction Requested:
Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed